

Appln No. 10/807,014

Amdt date May 5, 2005

Reply to Office action of January 31, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7 as follows:

FIG. 1 shows a putting aid 10 having a first attachment structure 12 and a second attachment structure 14. A first and a second support 11 and 13 are disposed between and attached to the attachment structures 12 and 14, for horizontally supporting the attachment structures. Preferably, the supports 11 and 13 are fixedly attached to the attachment structures 12 and 14 such as by welding. Although other appropriate attachment means are also contemplated, including releasable attachments. In addition, the attachment structures 12 and 14 and the supports 11 and 13 may be made from a variety of materials such as metal, wood, plastic or another appropriate material. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ An upper alignment member 16 and a lower alignment member 18 are also disposed between the attachment structures 12 and 14. In a preferred embodiment, the alignment members 16 and 18 are elastic ropes, which are flexible and expandable. However, in other embodiments, the alignment members may comprise other flexible materials or rigid materials such as metal, wood or plastic. The supports may be telescoping, such that a distance between the attachment structures 12 and 14 can be adjusted. The alignment members 16 and 18 are attached to the attachment structures 12 and 14 such that the alignment members are vertically aligned to define a vertical plane which is perpendicular to a putting surface 20. The vertical plane defines a target line 22 which is a path from a golf ball 24 to a target 26 that, if followed, results in the ball passing through an opening 28 in the target, which is an indication of a successful putt. The opening 28 is defined by first and second

**Appln No. 10/807,014**

**Amdt date May 5, 2005**

**Reply to Office action of January 31, 2005**

arms 25 and 27, spaced apart by a distance at least as large as the diameter of the golf ball 24, and a third arm 29 connecting the first and second arms 25 and 27 and spaced apart from the putting surface 20 by a distance at least as large as the diameter of the golf ball 24.

\_\_\_\_ The putting aid 10 also includes a plurality of reference markers, such as a ball placement reference marker 36, a back swing reference marker 38 and a follow through reference marker 40, each of which is slidably attached to the lower alignment member 18. For example, each of the reference markers may be a bead or a ring, having a central lumen through which the lower alignment member 18 extends. Alternatively, any or all of the reference markers may be attached to the upper alignment member 16.

\_\_\_\_ In a preferred embodiment, the reference markers 36, 38 and 40 are beads having central lumens through which the lower alignment member 18 extends. The ball marker 36 acts as a guide for placing the ball 24 on the putting surface 20. The back swing and follow through markers 38 and 40 act as guides to aid the golfer in determining when to terminate a back swing of a putting stroke and when to terminate a follow through of a putting stroke, respectively.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24 as follows:

As shown in FIGs. 1 and 3, the target 26 is attached to the first attachment structure 12. Preferably, the target 26 is attached to the first attachment structure 12 such that the target opening 28 is bisected by the vertical plane defined by the alignment members 16 and 18. In such an instance, the target line 22 will be in line with a centerline of the target

**Appln No. 10/807,014**

**Amdt date May 5, 2005**

**Reply to Office action of January 31, 2005**

opening 28 and the success of the putt can be determined by whether or not the ball 24 passes through the target opening 28. The target opening 28, defined by the first, second and third arms 25, 27 and 29, may be of a variety of shapes and sizes, but preferably is at least as large as a regulation size golf ball, which is a sphere having a  $1 \frac{11}{16}$  inch diameter.

\_\_\_\_ The target 26 may be releasably attached to the first attachment structure 12, such that it may be detached from the first attachment structure and replaced with other targets (not shown), which have openings of different sizes. For example, for a challenging putt, an advanced golfer may wish to attach a target having an opening that is only slightly larger than the  $1 \frac{11}{16}$  inch diameter of the regulation size golf ball, or for a less challenging putt, a novice may wish to attach a target having an opening that is even larger than the  $4 \frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter of a regulation size golf cup. Alternatively, the target 26 may be constructed without an opening 28, in which case the success of the putt can be determined by whether of not the ball contacts the target 26.